

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph. Claim 11 was rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as anticipated by JP 59024627. Claims 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as anticipated by Schonfeld et al. Claims 11-13 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as anticipated by Weaver.

In response to the rejections in view of prior art, JP 59024627 relates to a process to obtain a multicolor sheet consisting of multicolored granule aggregate obtained by crushing a multilayer material, which is consisting of variously colored layers. JP '627 does not teach that each granule presents an anisotropic shading of coloring in the body of the granule.

Consequently, the instant invention is patentably distinguished over JP '627.

U.S. Patent NO. 6,017,984 to Schonfeld et al. relates to colorant compositions consisting essentially of at least one cholesteric liquid-crystalline polymers and at least one colorant. In column 5, lines 1-5, it is stated that this colorant composition is prepared by mixing a melt of the cholesteric liquid-crystalline polymer with the colorant and additives (if desired) until there is homogeneous distribution. Moreover, in column 1, lines 57-62, it is indicated that "the object of the present invention ... is to provide a material which has colors dependent on the viewing angle,

which gives level colorations without inhomogeneities in color...". Although the examples do describe the obtention of colored pellets from the compositions of the Schonfeld patent, each pellet is not presenting an anisotropic shading of coloring in its body. The coated substrates, onto which the colorant composition is applied, do not likewise present an anisotropic shading of coloring in their bodies.

Thus, the instant invention is patentably distinguished over the Schonfeld patent.

U.S. Patent No. 5,962,557 to Weaver et al teaches a colored polyester copolymer comprising the reaction product of at least one linear thermoplastic polyester precursor and an anthraquinone derivatives type colorant. These polyester color concentrates can be mixed with thermoplastics to impart the desired level of color (see column 6, lines 58-64). Examples 1-3 describe the preparation of polymers comprising the copolymerized colorant and corresponding films by steps of grinding the polymer into granules and subsequent molding thereof. Granules of the Weaver patent do not present an anisotropic shading of coloring in the body of the granule. The same applies for the films.

Thus, the instant invention is patentably distinguished over the Weaver patent.

Japanese '627 does not teach that each granule presents an anisotropic shading of coloring in the body as defined in claim 11.

The Schonfeld patent does not teach that each granule (and a surface coating obtained with said granules) presents an anisotropic shading of coloring in the body as defined in claims 11 and 12.

The Weaver patent does not teach that each granule (and a surface coating and molded articles obtained with said granules) presents an anisotropic shading of coloring in the body as defined in claims 11-13.

A Terminal Disclaimer is enclosed to avoid the obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims in the present application, as they now stand, patentably distinguish over the references cited and applied by the Examiner and are, therefore, in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is in order, and such favorable action and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

However, if after reviewing the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner has any questions or comments, he is cordially invited to contact the undersigned attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

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